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- Fig. 13. *Staurastrum aviculum*, var. *brevispinum*, side view.
 Figs. 14 and 15. *Staurastrum polymorphum*, var. *pentagonum*.
 Figs. 16 and 17. *Staurastrum Sebalii*, var. *quarternum*.
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 Me. Algæ, BULLETIN, Vol. XVI., p. 186.
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 I., Me. Algæ, BULLETIN, June, 1888, p. 160.
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 Art. I., Me. Algæ, BULLETIN, June, 1888, p. 161.

Sereno Watson.

BY WALTER DEANE.

Systematic botany has sustained a most serious loss in the recent death of Dr. Sereno Watson, Curator of the Harvard College Herbarium. It is always with a feeling of deep sorrow that we record the death of a man who has made himself famous by his eminence in science, but far deeper is our loss when, to his scientific attainments is added the kindly spirit which prompts the scholar to aid and encourage those seeking his assistance. Such was Dr. Watson. Reserved and retiring by nature, he rather shrank from society, and preferred to devote himself almost entirely to his own labors. But it was in the herbarium especially that his gentle nature and his readiness to help those about him were shown. He was never too busy to stop and ask a friendly question or give a courteous answer. How many times has he paused in his own work to help unravel some knotty problem put before him! But, to the botanical world at large, he will always be known as a master of systematic botany.

Dr. Watson was born at East Windsor Hill, Connecticut, December 1st, 1826. After graduating at Yale College in 1847, he taught school for six years in New England, Pennsylvania and New York, besides holding the position of tutor in Iowa University. A portion of this time he spent at East Windsor and at the University of New York in studying medicine. He continued his studies from 1853 to 1855, with his brother at Quincy, Illinois, where he practiced medicine for two years after. Though possessing a general interest in botany all this time, he

did not, until 1867, give himself up entirely to its pursuit. He spent five years, from January, 1856, to April, 1861, at Greensboro, Alabama, as Secretary of the Planters' Insurance Company, and for some years after this he assisted Dr. Henry Barnard, of Hartford, Connecticut, in his literary work.

His botanical career may be said to have begun when he joined the Clarence King Expedition as a volunteer botanist, in July, 1867. This expedition had for its object the geological exploration of the 40th parallel in the Western United States, and Prof. W. W. Bailey was botanist in charge. In March, 1868, Prof. Bailey was obliged to resign his position, and Dr. Watson became botanist to the expedition. The elaboration of the collections made was done mainly at Prof. D. C. Eaton's Herbarium at Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut, but he visited, also, the Gray Herbarium at Cambridge to complete his study of some of the types of our western plants. Vol V. of the U. S. Geological Exploration of the 40th Parallel contains the results of this work. It is a splendid example of critical acumen.

His connection with the Gray Herbarium began in 1870, and continued till his death. He had charge of the immense collections there deposited, as well as of the library, and here it was that Dr. Watson's literary botanical work was mainly done. Eighteen Contributions to American Botany appeared from his pen between the years 1873 and 1891. Most of them were published in the Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The value of these contributions cannot be overestimated. They contain, besides many other valuable articles, monographs on the Roses of North America, the North American Liliaceæ and Chenopodiaceæ, and on many of our important genera, as *Lupinus*, *Oenothera* and *Eriogonum*. Hundreds of new species are described in these papers. Dr. Watson's habit of careful observation, in whatever branch of study he had been pursuing, especially fitted him for this kind of work, and the value of his descriptions is abundantly attested by all botanists.

In 1878 was published the Biographical Index to North American Botany, Part I., Polypetalæ, a work of great value, which it is much to be regretted that he could not complete. The first volume of the Botany of California, by Dr. Watson, Dr. Asa Gray

and Prof. W. H. Brewer, appeared in 1876, followed in 1880 by Vol. II., published by Dr. Watson. The two volumes contain nearly twelve hundred pages, and are a monument to the authors. Dr. Watson assisted in writing the botanical portion of the Century Dictionary in the earlier numbers of the work. He contributed also to many scientific journals, the BULLETIN containing many of his papers. He was a warm friend of the late Leo Lesquereux, bryologist, and, on the death of Mr. Thomas P. James, with whom Lesquereux was publishing a Manual of the Mosses of North America, Dr. Watson undertook to complete the publication of the work, owing to Lesquereux's failing health, and he issued the volume in 1884. In 1889, he published, in connection with Prof. J. M. Coulter, the Sixth Edition of the Gray Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States. This work was eagerly looked forward to, and joyfully welcomed by all students of the flora of the Northeastern United States, for the last edition had been published as far back as 1867. The western range of the old Manual is extended in this edition to the one hundredth meridian, in order to connect it with the Manual of the Rocky Mountain Region, by Prof. Coulter. A second issue of this work has already appeared.

Dr. Watson was a member of many scientific societies at home and abroad, and from Iowa University he received the degree of Ph.D. His career in Cambridge was marked by the most indefatigable work. His connection with the Herbarium involved many duties relating to the care of the plants under his charge, and of the library, and it is a wonder that he was able to accomplish so much original work. He rarely took even a short vacation, and it was seldom that he was not to be found surrounded by his books and herbarium sheets in the familiar room, sanctified for so many years by the presence of Dr. Asa Gray. To Dr. Watson most befittingly it fell to carry on the Synoptical Flora of North America, which it is the earnest wish of every botanist to see carefully completed. He had worked harmoniously so long with Dr. Gray, that he thoroughly understood the plan on which the great Flora was to be continued. Unfortunately he did not live to do much in this direction.

During the last two years of his life, he used Dr. Gray's study,

instead of the Herbarium, for his special work, and, in the retirement of that room, filled with so many pleasant memories, he passed quiet and happy hours in his last labors. His peaceful life in Cambridge was broken by but few extended tours. He made a trip to the Northwest in connection with the Forest Department of the Census of 1880, and in 1885 he went on a collecting trip to Guatemala. He brought back a valuable collection of plants, among them twenty-five species of palms, and he published the results of his examination of a part of them in the Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Unfortunately, however, he contracted malarial fever in the damp region of that tropical country, and he was never after entirely free from its effects. In 1886, in company with Dr. Geo. L. Goodale, he travelled for three months in Europe and was much benefited by the change.

About the middle of December last, Dr. Watson was taken sick with the prevailing influenza, which resulted in dilatation of the heart. For some weeks his recovery, though uncertain, was hoped for, and he himself often talked, with the greatest longing, of returning to work. But he grew weaker and weaker, till finally, on the morning of March 9th, 1892, he peacefully passed away. It was a beautiful ending to a well-spent life. The funeral services were held at Appleton Chapel, Cambridge, on March 11th, and were conducted by Rev. F. H. Smith and Rev. Dr. Alexander McKenzie in a very simple but impressive manner. The singing was by the college choir.

The pallbearers were Profs. Wm. H. Brewer, Chas. S. Sargent, Henry G. Jesup, Geo. L. Goodale and Wm. G. Farlow, Mr. W. F. Ganong, Dr. Roland Thaxter and Dr. B. L. Robinson. At Dr. Watson's own request his remains were laid in the College lot, at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

He has left to the world a rich legacy in his works, and, to many of us, bright memories of a warm and loving friend.

Some Additions to Our Eastern Flora.

BY THOS. C. PORTER.

EUPATORIUM VASEYI, n. sp. Stem slender, 2 to 3 ft. high, glabrous below, corymbosely branching above, the branches and inflorescence minutely puberulent; leaves lanceolate, narrowed